

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A control point for discounting a customer's billing for telephone calls completed in a wide area centrex/PBX network that includes an abbreviated dialing plan, the control point receiving, from a switching point, a query that is generated based upon receiving a telephone call; the control point determining a call type code that is based upon a calling station type and a called station type and, when the call type code is eligible for discounted billing, generating a billing record of a first type for the call, the billing record of the first type being used to discount the billing for the call; the control point forwarding, to the switching point, the billing record of the first type for the call,

wherein the switching point generates a billing record of a second type for the call and, when the call type code is eligible for discounted billing, the billing record of the first type is used to modify the billing record of the second type.

2. The control point of claim 1, wherein the call type code is further based upon a determination whether a billing discounting feature is active for at least one of PBX stations and centrex stations.

3. The control point of claim 1, the billing record of the second type for the call being discarded when the call type code for the call is eligible for billing suppression, so that the customer is charged a periodic flat rate charge for eligible calls in lieu of per-call billing.

4. The control point of claim 1, wherein the discounting is based upon a determination whether the telephone call comprises an intraLATA call.

5. The control point of claim 4, wherein the discounting is further based upon a determination whether the telephone call comprises a voice call.

6. The control point of claim 1, the billing record of the first type being rated in accordance with a preestablished agreement, the discounting being based upon the rating when the customer receives a reduced periodic charge for eligible calls.

7. A switching point for discounting a customer's billing for telephone calls completed in a wide area centrex/PBX network that includes an abbreviated dialing plan, the switching point generating a query based upon receiving a telephone call, and forwarding the query to a control point that determines a call type code based upon a calling station type and a called station type, the control point generating a billing record of a first type for the call; the switching point receiving the billing record of the first type from the control point when the call type code is eligible for discounted billing, the billing record of the first type being used to discount the billing for the call,

wherein, the switching point generates a billing record of a second type for the call and, when the call type code is eligible for the discounted billing, modifies the billing record of the second type using the billing record of the first type.

8. The switching point of claim 7, wherein the call type code is further based upon

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a determination whether a billing discounting feature is active for at least one of PBX stations and centrex stations.

9. The switching point of claim 7, the billing record of the second type for the call being discarded when the call type code for the call is eligible for billing suppression, so that the customer is charged a periodic flat rate charge for eligible calls in lieu of per-call billing.

10. The switching point of claim 7, wherein the discounting is based upon a determination whether the telephone call comprises an intraLATA call.

11. The switching point of claim 10, wherein the discounting is further based upon a determination whether the telephone call comprises a voice call.

12. The switching point of claim 7, the billing record of the first type being rated in accordance with a preestablished agreement, the discounting being based upon the rating when the customer receives a reduced periodic charge for eligible calls.

13. A switching point for discounting a customer's bill for telephone calls completed in a wide area centrex/PBX network that includes an abbreviated dialing plan, the switching point generating a query based upon receiving a telephone call; the switching point forwarding the query to a control point; and the switching point generating a billing record, the control point determining a general class of service of the calling station that places the telephone call and a general class of service of a called

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station, the control point determining whether the customer subscribes to billing discounting for the determined class of service, and the control point determining whether the call is an intraLATA call and a voice call;

wherein, when the general class of service of the calling station and the general class of service of the called station are eligible for the billing discounting, and the customer subscribes to the billing discounting for the general class of service of the calling station, and the call is an intraLATA voice call, the billing record is modified and the billing for the completed call is discounted based upon the modified billing record.

14. The switching point of claim 13, wherein, when the general class of service of the calling station and the general class of service of the called station are eligible for billing suppression, and the customer subscribes to the billing suppression for the general class of service of the calling station, and the call is an intraLATA voice call, the billing record is discarded and the customer is charged a periodic flat rate charge for eligible calls.

15. The switching point of claim 13, the billing for the telephone call being rated in accordance with a preestablished agreement, the discounting being further based upon the rating when the customer receives a reduced periodic charge for eligible calls.

16. A control point for discounting a customer's bill for telephone calls completed in a wide area centrex/PBX network that includes an abbreviated dialing plan, the control

point receiving, from a switching point that generates a billing record, a query that is generated based upon receiving a telephone call; the control point determining a general class of service of the calling station that places the telephone call and a general class of service of a called station; the control point determining whether the customer subscribes to billing discounting for the determined class of service; and the control point determining whether the call is an intraLATA call and a voice call,

wherein, when the general class of service of the calling station and the general class of service of the called station are eligible for the billing discounting, and the customer subscribes to the billing discounting for the general class of service of the calling station, and the call is an intraLATA voice call, the billing record is modified and the billing for the completed call is discounted based upon the modified billing record.

17. The control point of claim 16, wherein, when the general class of service of the calling station and the general class of service of the called station are eligible for billing suppression, and the customer subscribes to the billing suppression for the general class of service of the calling station, and the call is an intraLATA voice call, the billing record is discarded and the customer is charged a periodic flat rate charge for eligible calls.

18. The control point of claim 16, the billing for the telephone call being rated in accordance with a preestablished agreement, the discounting being further based upon the rating when the customer receives a reduced periodic charge for eligible calls.